

FORM PTO-1390 (REV. 11-2000)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 31496-178391	
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371				U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">10/089863</div>	
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP00/09724		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE October 5, 2000		PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED October 6, 1999	
TITLE OF INVENTION ESPRESSO MACHINE WITH AN INFUSION PISTON DISPLACEABLE IN AN INFUSION CYLINDER					
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Arthur EUGSTER					
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below. 4. <input type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31). 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau. (attach form IB 308) c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto. b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4) 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). 10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). 					
Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 16. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter 17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825. 18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4) 19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 20. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: Formal Drawing, 1 sheet, Fig. 1 					
20a. <input type="checkbox"/> For purposes of examination, please insert the annexes to the IPER, so that the application will comprise the following pages of the English translation: Specification: Original pages Amended pages Claims: Original claims Amended claims					

JC13 Rec'd PCT/PTO 05 APR 2002

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PC Docs No. **364360**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Arthur EUGSTER

Intl. Appl. No. PCT/EP00/09724

Confirmation No.

Filed: October 5, 2000

Art Unit: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

Atty. Docket No. 31496-178391

For: ESPRESSO MACHINE WITH AN
INFUSION PISTON
DISPLACEABLE IN AN
INFUSION CYLINDER

Customer No.



26694

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Preliminary Amendment

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the fees, please amend the claims attached to the specification as follows:

Claim 3 (amended) An espresso machine according to claim 1,
characterized in that

the espresso machine has a lower part secured fixedly to the housing and an upper
part designed as carousel that rotates on a circular track of 360°, relative to the lower part,
that the infusion piston as component of the upper part in an angular position of the upper
part can be lowered with a lever into and removed from the infusion chamber and that an
up and down movement of a lifting piston with perforated bottom is purposely controlled
by the rotational movement of the upper part by raising the lifting piston in the lower part
of the infusion chamber until it reaches the upper edge of the infusion chamber where a
cake formed with coffee grounds is removed to the side with the aid of a removal
element.

Applicant(s): Arthur EUGSTER
Intl. Appl. No.: PCT/EP00/09724

Please add the following new claim:

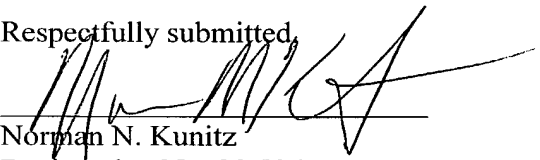
Claim 4 An espresso machine according to claim 2,
characterized in that
the espresso machine has a lower part secured fixedly to the housing and an upper
part designed as carousel that rotates on a circular track of 360°, relative to the lower part,
that the infusion piston as component of the upper part in an angular position of the upper
part can be lowered with a lever into and removed from the infusion chamber and that an
up and down movement of a lifting piston with perforated bottom is purposely controlled
by the rotational movement of the upper part by raising the lifting piston in the lower part
of the infusion chamber until it reaches the upper edge of the infusion chamber where a
cake formed with coffee grounds is removed to the side with the aid of a removal
element.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is made to eliminate multiple claim dependency.
Examination on the merits of the application is requested. A marked up version showing the
changes made to the claims is attached.

Date: 04/05/02

Respectfully submitted,


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Applicant(s): Arthur EUGSTER
Intl. Appl. No.: PCT/EP00/09724

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claim 3 (amended) An espresso machine according to claim 1[or 2],
characterized in that
the espresso machine has a lower part secured fixedly to the housing and an upper
part designed as carousel that rotates on a circular track of 360°, relative to the lower part,
that the infusion piston as component of the upper part in an angular position of the upper
part can be lowered with a lever into and removed from the infusion chamber and that an
up and down movement of a lifting piston with perforated bottom is purposely controlled
by the rotational movement of the upper part by raising the lifting piston in the lower part
of the infusion chamber until it reaches the upper edge of the infusion chamber where a
cake formed with coffee grounds is removed to the side with the aid of a removal
element.

**Espresso Machine With An Infusion Piston Displaceable In An Infusion
Cylinder**

[1] The invention relates to an espresso machine with an infusion piston displaceable inside an infusion cylinder, as disclosed in the preamble to claim 1.

[2] The infusion piston of a known espresso machine, in particular for household use, is spring-connected with the aid of a rod to a motorized activating device. The rod is positioned inside a vertically displaceable sleeve with tubular section (EP 0 270 141 A1). The tubular section, among other things, is connected via a tension spring to the pin of a cam disk driven by a gear motor. The spring is arranged and dimensioned such that the ground coffee filled into the infusion chamber of the infusion cylinder is essentially compressed steadily and independent of the amount of ground coffee by the gear motor. An infusion-water inlet empties into the infusion cylinder, connected to the infusion chamber with a line through which infusion water flows, via a filter with ring-shaped opening that operates jointly with a displaceable locking piece to release a passage. Under pressure from the infusion water flowing into the infusion cylinder or infusion chamber, the infusion piston is held in the position where the ground coffee is compressed. An outlet sieve is arranged in the area of the infusion cylinder bottom or the infusion chamber formed therein, which can be raised following the infusion operation in order to push out the cake formed with the ground coffee.

[3] With espresso machines of this type the ground coffee is compressed to obtain a good froth that helps determine the espresso quality. The compressed, ground

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the lifting piston. The snap-in elements comprise several traps to permit a compressing of different amounts of coffee. A lifting piston is arranged above the bottom of the infusion chamber, which is provided with holes for allowing the infusion water to flow from the infusion water nozzle, installed in the bottom, into the lower part of the infusion chamber. The lifting piston is positioned displaceable and can be moved up and down by rotating the upper part. Following the infusion of the espresso, the lifting piston can thus be raised during the rotation of the upper part to a different angular position, to the upper edge of the infusion chamber. From that position, the cake formed with coffee grounds, which remains after the infusion operation is complete, can be pushed out to the side with a removal element. Prior to that and owing to the fact that the ground coffee is enclosed tightly between perforated lifting piston and infusion sieve, little residual water remains in the cake formed with coffee grounds following the infusion operation. This water is also referred to as coffee residue.

[5] The disadvantage of above-mentioned espresso machines, however, is that not all areas of the ground coffee are sufficiently moistened as a result of the strong compressing of the ground coffee or the counter pressure generated by the frothing valve, thus resulting in insufficient extraction of the distilled oils in those areas. An additional disadvantage of espresso machines having frothing valves is that once the nominal opening pressure is reached and, accordingly, the frothing valve is opened, the infusion water will suddenly carve a channel and rush along the shortest route toward the espresso outlet. In that case, some areas of the ground coffee are leached out only insufficiently. Undesirable break-through channels of the infusion water can form in the ground coffee even with relatively low pressures and in the absence of a frothing valve.

[6] A known espresso machine of the generic type described in the introductory section to the specification does not have a frothing valve, but a spring-loaded infusion piston. The infusion piston is arranged inside the infusion chamber such that it can be displaced by the pressurized infusion water and counter to the resetting force of the spring toward a bottom of an infusion chamber, thus expanding the infusion chamber and finally closing off an espresso outlet in the bottom (EP 0 948 927 A1). The infusion piston is provided on the top with a filter for holding the ground coffee and on the bottom with a piston rod. The outflow of espresso through the individual openings in the infusion piston must for all practical purposes be stopped with the aid of the bottom part, particularly a raised section on the bottom, if the infusion piston rests on the bottom or the raised area on the bottom. This is designed to achieve a complete moistening of the ground coffee during the infusion phase. However, the infusion chamber is not closed off immediately after the infusion water flows into the infusion chamber, but only after sufficient pressure has built up, so that the infusion piston is mostly pressed against the bottom. At least until this time, infusion water can flow from the espresso outlet in an undesirable manner. Even following that, the seal is not ensured because of the unavoidable sediments from the cake formed with coffee grounds and the incompressible water between the underside of the infusion piston and the bottom of the infusion chamber. At the completion of the infusion phase and once the flow of hot water under pressure has been turned off, the resetting force of the spring that returns the infusion piston and cake formed with coffee grounds therefore cannot be selected very high.

[7] It is the object of the present invention to develop an espresso machine of the aforementioned type, which avoids the above disadvantages and reliably causes an

even moistening, pressing-out and leaching-out of all areas of the ground coffee in the infusion cylinder. This is designed to achieve the best possible use of the ground coffee and an optimized froth. In the process, the sealing of the infusion chamber is to be improved as well, starting from the time when the infusion water first flows into the infusion chamber to the end of the infusion phase.

[8] This object is solved for an espresso machine of the aforementioned type with the features listed in the characterizing section of claim 1.

[9] For the solution according to the invention, the compressing of the ground coffee by the infusion piston occurs prior to the actual infusion operation, wherein the infusion piston with water distributor can rest on the ground coffee. This compressing position of the infusion piston before the start of the infusion operation is referred to as first position. For this, the infusion chamber is closed off pressure-tight and watertight by the infusion piston and in downstream direction by a frothing valve. The spring is dimensioned such that the infusion cylinder is moved to a second position by the pressure of the infusion water flowing into the infusion chamber and counter to the spring force of this spring. In this second position, the infusion chamber volume is increased to a predetermined maximum value, so that no local breakthroughs for the infusion water occur in the ground coffee in the expanding infusion chamber. Rather, the ground coffee is evenly moistened, pressed out and leached out as a result of its mobility, particularly the swirling in the floating infusion, before the opening of the frothing valve upon reaching the nominal opening pressure. The infusion piston is thus moved automatically back to the first position as a result of the energy stored in the spring, so that the coffee residue or the cake formed with ground coffee has the desired dryness following the

completion of the infusion operation. - No additional active control elements are therefore required to control the infusion piston movement between a first position (compressing position) and a second position and back to the first position before the cake formed with coffee grounds is removed.

[10] The infusion piston function is a result of the arrangement and dimensioning of the means, which exert a force onto the infusion piston during the infusion operation. That is to say, it is based on the infusion pressure inside the infusion chamber, as well as the effective infusion piston surface upon which this pressure acts, the spring, and any other elements that may exist and may influence the forces attacking the infusion piston. The frothing valve contributes to the automatic displacement of the infusion piston. This valve helps determine the maximum adjustment of the infusion piston and thus the expansion of the infusion chamber until a nominal opening pressure is achieved. Mechanical stops or additional means for limiting the infusion piston lift are thus not necessary. The nominal opening pressure can be adjusted, for example, to approximately 6 bar.

[11] Claim 2 discloses a particularly compact, reliable and structurally uncomplicated arrangement of a compression spring that acts upon the infusion piston.

[12] According to claim 3, espresso machines with a bottom part secured to the housing and a top part that can rotate relative to the bottom part along a circular track of 360° can be designed without problem to include the intended, automatic displacement of the infusion piston in the infusion cylinder during the infusion operation. The infusion piston as component of the upper part can be lowered into and removed from the infusion chamber in an angular position of the upper part and with the aid of a lowering lever. An

upward and downward movement of a lifting piston with perforated bottom is forcibly controlled through the rotational movement of the upper part. The lifting piston can be raised in the lower part of the infusion chamber to the upper edge of the infusion chamber where a cake formed with coffee grounds can be removed to the side with a removal element. This type of design is shown in detail in the above-mentioned EP 0 756 842 B1. As a result, the advantages of an uncomplicated, operationally safe control mechanism can be utilized, wherein this control mechanism does not need to be expanded for the infusion piston movement during the infusion operation.

[13] Another exemplary embodiment of the invention is shown in the following with the aid of a drawing and a Figure, showing in:

Figure 1 A longitudinal section through a portion of an espresso machine, which shows an extremely simplified longitudinal section of an infusion head.

[14] Reference numeral 1 in Figure 1 shows an infusion cylinder with an infusion piston 2 that is positioned such that it can be displaced. The infusion piston 2 is sealed with a piston seal 3 against an inside wall of the infusion cylinder 1. A water distributor 4, which can be designed as sieve and moved with the infusion piston 2, is located on one underside of the infusion piston 3. An outlet sieve 5 is positioned opposite, in a lower portion of the infusion cylinder 1. An infusion chamber 6 with variable volume is defined by the underside of the infusion piston with displaceable water distributor 4, the outlet sieve and the inside wall section of the infusion cylinder that is located between the infusion piston 2 or the water distributor 4 and the outlet sieve.

[15] Below the outlet valve, a frothing valve 7 with a nominal opening pressure of approximately 6 bar is arranged in a flow path extending downstream from the infusion chamber 6 to an espresso outlet 8. The outlet sieve 5 can be realized as perforated bottom.

[16] A tubular infusion water inlet 9 is connected to a flexible water hose 10, which leads to an infusion water pump not shown herein. The infusion water inlet is designed as tube-shaped piston rod, which is positioned displaceable inside an infusion cylinder support 11. The infusion water inlet changes over to a bore in the infusion piston 2, which is connected with a line carrying infusion water to the infusion chamber 6 below the water distributor 4.

[17] A compression spring 14 is installed between a top part of the infusion piston 2 that is not designated and a bottom part of the infusion cylinder support 11, which is also not designated.

[18] The compression spring 14 is dimensioned such that in the first position for the infusion water piston, shown in Figure 1, at normal pressure in the infusion water inlet, it compresses the ground coffee filled into the infusion chamber to the desired degree. However, once infusion water is forced at the start of the infusion operation through the flexible water hose 10, the infusion water inlet 9 and the water distributor 4 into the infusion chamber 6, the piston moves under pressure upward to a predetermined second position. The infusion chamber 6 volume is consequently enlarged to a desired degree by the lifting of the infusion piston 2 with the water distributor 4. The infusion piston 2 is raised counter to the spring force of compression spring 14 until the nominal opening pressure of the frothing valve 7 is reached. Until then, the ground coffee can

spread out in the expanded infusion chamber 6 as a result of the swirling caused by the pressure of the infusion water flowing into the infusion chamber 6, such that the ground coffee is evenly moistened, is subsequently pressed out and then leached out. The second infusion piston 2 position, reached and maintained until the inside pressure in the pressure chamber has increased to the nominal opening pressure for the frothing valve 7, can be defined, for example, by the compression spring 14 characteristic in relation to the effective pressure surface on the underside of the infusion piston 2 or by a mechanical stop.

[19] Once the nominal opening pressure of the frothing valve in the infusion chamber 6 is reached, the inside pressure there breaks down and the compression spring 14 compresses the leached-out coffee grounds inside the decreasing infusion chamber 6 with the aid of the infusion piston 2 and the water distributor 6[sic] until the first position of the infusion piston 2 is reached once more.

[20] For the exemplary embodiment, the infusion cylinder 1 that is attached with a bayonet joint 12 to the infusion cylinder support 11 can be removed again, wherein the infusion piston 2 with water distributor 4 and the compression spring 14 remain attached to the infusion cylinder support 11. The ground coffee can be filled into the removed infusion cylinder 1 prior to preparing the espresso. Following the infusion operation, the infusion cylinder 1 can be taken off once more and the cake formed with coffee grounds removed.

Parts Legend

- 1 infusion cylinder
- 2 infusion piston
- 3 piston seal
- 4 water distributor
- 5 outlet sieve (perforated bottom)
- 6 infusion chamber
- 7 frothing valve
- 8 espresso outlet
- 9 infusion water inlet
- 10 flexible water hose
- 11 infusion cylinder support
- 12 bayonet joint
- 13 espresso machine
- 14 compression spring

Claims

1. An espresso machine with an infusion piston displaceable inside an infusion cylinder, which infusion piston is force-connected via a spring to a device for activating the infusion piston and, in a first position, tightly encloses ground coffee inside an infusion chamber of the infusion cylinder between itself and an outlet sieve, wherein a pressurized water inlet is connected to the infusion chamber, the infusion piston (2) is automatically pushed by the pressure of the infusion water flowing into the infusion cylinder (1) and counter to a spring force to a second predetermined position, thereby expanding the infusion chamber, whereupon during a pressure drop inside the infusion chamber (6) the infusion piston (2) is returned automatically to the first position,
characterized in that
the infusion piston (2) can essentially be displaced proportional to a pressure increase inside the infusion chamber (6), caused by the infusion water flowing in, until it reaches a nominal opening pressure for a frothing valve (7) that closes off the infusion chamber (6) in downstream direction.

2. An espresso machine according to claim 1,
characterized in that
the spring is a compression spring (14), arranged coaxial to the infusion piston (2) above the infusion cylinder (1), between this piston and an element that is fixedly installed relative to the infusion cylinder (1).

(12) NACH DEM VERTRAG ÜBER DIE INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT AUF DEM GEBIET DES
PATENTWESENS (PCT) VERÖFFENTLICHTE INTERNATIONALE ANMELDUNG

(19) Weltorganisation für geistiges Eigentum
Internationales Büro



(43) Internationales Veröffentlichungsdatum
12. April 2001 (12.04.2001)

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(10) Internationale Veröffentlichungsnummer
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(51) Internationale Patentklassifikation⁷: A47J 31/40

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(25) Einreichungssprache: Deutsch

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(30) Angaben zur Priorität:
299 17 586.3 6. Oktober 1999 (06.10.1999) DE

(71) Anmelder (für alle Bestimmungsstaaten mit Ausnahme von
US): EUGSTER/FRISMAG AG [CH/CH]; Im Hof 20,
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(72) Erfinder; und

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(81) Bestimmungsstaat (national): US.

(84) Bestimmungsstaaten (regional): europäisches Patent (AT,
BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC,
NL, PT, SE).

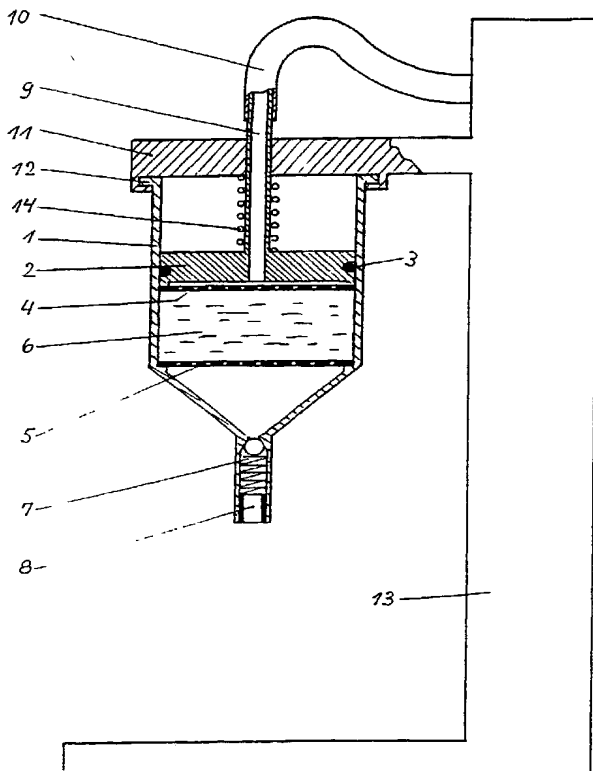
Veröffentlicht:

— mit internationalem Recherchenbericht

[Fortsetzung auf der nächsten Seite]

(54) Title: ESPRESSO MACHINE WITH AN INFUSION PISTON DISPLACEABLE IN AN INFUSION CYLINDER

(54) Bezeichnung: ESPRESSOMASCHINE MIT EINEM IN EINEM BRÜHZYLINDER VERSCHIEBBAREN BRÜHKOLBEN

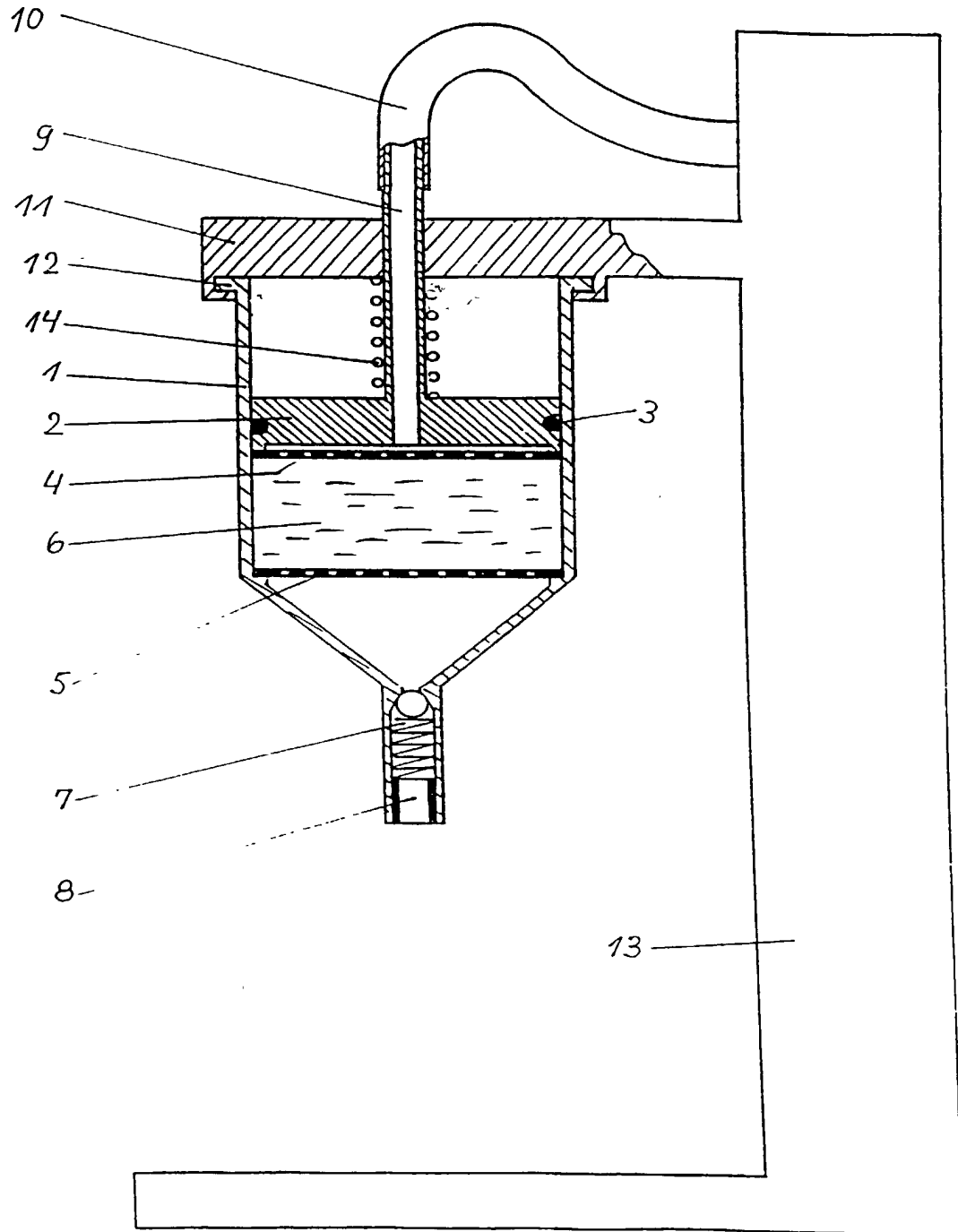


(57) Abstract: The invention relates to an espresso machine with an infusion piston (2) that is displaceable in an infusion cylinder (1) which infusion piston is linked in a non-positive manner with an actuation device of the infusion piston via a spring. In a first position, said infusion piston tightly encloses the ground coffee between itself and an outlet sieve (5) in an infusion chamber (6) of the infusion cylinder, said infusion chamber being connected to a pressurized water inlet. The infusion piston (2) is automatically displaceable by the pressure of the infusion water flowing into the infusion cylinder (1) against the elastic force of the spring to a second predetermined position in which the infusion chamber is enlarged. Once the pressure in the infusion chamber (6) decreases, the spring automatically returns the infusion piston (2) in the direction of the first position. The aim of the invention is to provide an espresso machine with which all zones of the ground coffee within the infusion cylinder are evenly and thoroughly moistened, expressed and extracted. Another aim is to improve the sealing of the infusion chamber from the start of the inlet of the infusion water to the end of the infusion phase. To this end, the infusion piston (2) can be displaced to the second position in a manner that is substantially proportional to a pressure increase in the infusion chamber (6) caused by the inflowing infusion water until a desired opening pressure of a froth-producing valve (7) closing the infusion chamber (6) in the downstream direction is reached.

[Fortsetzung auf der nächsten Seite]

WO 01/24670 A3

Fig.1



**DECLARATION FOR UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION
POWER OF ATTORNEY, DESIGNATION OF CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS**

Attorney Docket
31496-178391

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name, and that I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled EXPRESSO MACHINE WITH AN INFUSION PISTON DISPLACEABLE IN AN INFUSION CYLINDER, the specification of which

[] is attached hereto.

[] was filed on _____, as Application Serial No. _____, Confirmation No. _____, and was amended on _____ [if applicable].

[X was filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty on October 5, 2000, Serial No. PCT/EP00/09724, the United States of America being designated, and was amended on _____ [if applicable].

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56.

I HEREBY CLAIM foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119(a)-(d) of §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number	Country	Foreign Filing Date	Priority Claimed
299 17 586.3	Germany	October 6, 1999	Yes

I HEREBY CLAIM the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

U.S. Provisional Application Number	Filing Date

I HEREBY CLAIM the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s), or §365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States of America, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

U.S. Patent Application Number	PCT Patent Application Number	Patent Filing Date	Parent Patent Number

**DECLARATION FOR UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION
POWER OF ATTORNEY, DESIGNATION OF CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS**

I hereby appoint the registered attorneys and agents of VENABLE associated with the following customer number to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:



VENABLE is located at Suite 1000, 1201 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005-3917, Telephone: (202) 962-4800, Telefax: (202) 962-8300. Address all correspondence to VENABLE, Post Office Box 34385, Washington, D.C. 20043-9998.

The undersigned hereby authorizes the registered U.S. attorneys and agents identified herein to accept and follow instructions from the undersigned's assignee, if any, and/or, if the undersigned is not a resident of the United States, the undersigned's domestic attorney, patent attorney or patent agent, as to any action to be taken in the Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between U.S. attorneys and the undersigned. In the event of a change in the person(s) from whom instructions may be taken, the registered U.S. attorneys and agents identified herein will be so notified by the undersigned.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Signature: _____

Inventor: Arthur EUGSTER

Citizenship: _____

Residence and Post Office Address: Amriswilerstrasse 89

CH-8590 RomanshornSWITZERLAND *CH*Date: Mar, 25th, 2002.